

O. GENE DISHNER
DIRECTOR



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
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MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINERAL RESOURCES
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Ninth Street Office Building / 8th Floor

202 North Ninth Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-3402

(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237

www.dmme.virginia.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Mike Abbott (276) 523-8146

Workshop to Examine Potential for, Benefits of Wind Power Development in Virginia

Harrisonburg, VA - The Virginia Wind Energy Collaborative is holding a one-day workshop on utility-scale wind power on Friday, March 21, 2003, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. The workshop will address the economic and community benefits of wind power development, the potential demand for clean wind energy, the potential impacts on bird populations, and other economic and environmental issues and concerns. There is no cost to attend the workshop and it is open to anyone interested in wind power development in the Commonwealth.

Several other Mid-Atlantic States already have operating wind power installations or are in some stage of development. "Virginia is receiving much interest from commercial wind power developers," said Ken Jurman, Renewable Energy Program Manager at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy. "Virginia is poised to become the next state to reap the economic benefits wind power has to offer," Jurman said.

The Virginia Wind Energy Collaborative was formed in 2002 to examine the wind energy potential in the state as well as the benefits from and barriers to wind project development. The Collaborative includes the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, James Madison University, Environmental Resources Trust, Inc., Old Mill Power Company, the George Washington University Law School and Virginia Tech. The Collaborative builds on a two-year partnership between DOE's Wind Powering America program and Virginia's Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to explore the wind development potential and interests in the State.

The workshop is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and the U.S. Department of Energy's Wind Powering America program. For more information or to register for this free wind workshop please visit <http://web.jmu.edu/vwec/> or contact Matt Heck, James Madison University, at (540) 568-2560 or heckmg@jmu.edu.

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